

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of claims:**

Claims 1-11 (canceled without prejudice or disclaimer)

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) A hand-operated tool having a user side, comprising a handle which comprises a handle portion ~~which is positioned on the user side and a foot portion positioned on and which has a bottom side of the handle, a foot portion positioned on the bottom side of the handle portion,~~ and a detachable one-piece upper handle shell that is positioned to cover at least substantially the handle portion on the user side and the foot portion on the bottom side.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The hand-operated tool according to claim 12, characterized in that the foot ~~position~~ portion comprises a reinforcement profile arranged on the bottom side.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The hand-operated tool according to claim 12, which further comprises an inner handle wall injection-molded in one piece and running around an opening in the handle ~~portion~~.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 14, characterized in that the upper handle shell comprises a functional element arranged on the user side.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 15, wherein the functional element comprises an eyelet.

July 5, 2005

Response to February 3, 2005 Office Action and

June 6, 2005 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

Page 5

Claim 17 (Currently Amended) The hand-operated tool according to claim 14, which further comprises a larger tank half shell, wherein the inner handle wall and the larger tank half shell are formed by being injection-molded in one piece, and which further comprises a smaller tank half shell that is welded to the larger tank half shell along a seam running adjacent to the handle so as to form a fuel tank.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended) The hand-operated tool according to claim 12, characterized in that the foot portion comprises a dovetail guide running in the longitudinal direction of the tool and that the upper handle shell comprises wrap-arounds arranged on the ~~outside~~ outside of the upper handle shell with which the upper handle shell can be shifted in the direction away from ~~[[the]]~~ a user toward the tool.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The hand-operated tool according to claim 12, characterized in that the upper handle shell comprises a first fastening means ~~in the foot portion~~ which covers the foot portion of the handle on the bottom side, and/or a second fastening means ~~in the handle portion~~ which covers the handle portion on the user side of the handle.

Claim 20 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 19, characterized in that the first fastening means comprises recesses in order to form a snap connection with snap hooks projecting from the bottom of the foot portion.

Claim 21 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 19, characterized in that the foot portion comprises screw domes projecting from its bottom and that the first fastening means comprises penetration areas in the upper handle shell for screws that can be screwed into the screw domes for fixing the upper handle shell to the tool.

July 5, 2005

Response to February 3, 2005 Office Action and  
June 6, 2005 Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment

Page 6

Claim 22 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 19, characterized in that the second fastening means comprises a borehole arranged on the user side for a screw, and two noses arranged on the end of the tool side at an angle to the operative direction of the screw.

Claim 23 (Previously presented) The hand-operated tool according to claim 14, characterized in that the handle portion is hollow in order to receive a switching mechanism, that the inner handle wall comprises a recess for a gas lever and that the upper handle shell comprises a recess for a locking key.